

TODDY TAPPER—ASSAULT ON—ENQUIRY REGARDING.

85. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the attention of the Police Commissioner or any officer of his department has been drawn to a case of alleged assault on a member of the Mukundapuram Toddy Tappers' Union by one George of Padiyoor, Irinjalakkuda, in Chingam III4;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in the matter;

(c) what was the result of the enquiry?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) As the offence was found to be only a simple assault non-cognisable by the Police, the party was directed to complain to a Magistrate.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know who made these enquiries with regard to these offences?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): The A. S. P. enquired into these offences. I received a resolution passed at a public meeting. I immediately forwarded it to the A. S. P. for enquiry. As the offence was found to be only a simple assault non-cognisable by the Police, the party was directed to complain to a Magistrate. No public interest was involved in it.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are there not cases where non-cognisable cases were charged by the Police?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes. In the case of Pulayas and Parayas who are very poor and helpless.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Are the Government aware that the assault took place when the toddy tappers were on strike?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes. The toddy tapper tried to remove the pots from the compound of some person in the night who became irritated and gave a slap on his cheek.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): May I know why the Government make a distinction between Pulayas and other persons in non-cognisable cases?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): They are generally harassed by the people. Government take an interest in their welfare. That is the only reason.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Is the hon'ble member aware that a large number of petitions are being put in the Magistrate's Courts containing allegations of a non-cognisable nature and that they are being given to the Police officers for enquiry. Will the Commissioner of Police be pleased to put a stop to that practice?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I have been trying to put a stop to such practice. It is irregular that such petitions are endorsed by the Magistrates for enquiry by the Police officers. I have written to the District Magistrate about it. I have also given instructions to the Police not to consider such petitions.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Has it come to the notice of the Commissioner of Police that such petitions in the hands of the Constables become an instrument of harassment and cause much trouble to the public?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I will try to put a stop to that practice as early as possible. In every department there will be people like that.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar (*Nemmara*): Is that a justification for continuing the practice?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Not at all. But no instance of this sort has come to my notice till now.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): When was the party directed to apply to the Magistrate?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Immediately the matter was brought to his notice the A. S. P. directed the party. The party also told the A. S. P. that he had filed a petition before the Magistrate. I do not know the exact date.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Is the Police Department satisfied that an assault as stated in the answer has taken place there?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): Yes. He was assaulted. But it was a non-cognizable offence.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Is it a case pending before the Court?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I am not aware.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL DISCS—INTRODUCTION OF.

86. Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government be pleased to supply the traffic controlling constables with signal cards with the words “നീളം” and “ചെറുത” painted on them?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): The traffic in the State is not so heavy as to necessitate the use of these signal discs.

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Has the Government any objection to provide some shade for the constables who are standing for so long in the sun?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I have been thinking of that. It will be slowly provided when funds permit.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Is the hon'ble member aware that a sort of umbrella is being used by the traffic constables in cities like Madras?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): I know there are certain towns, where there are heavy traffic using such devices.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Will the Government be pleased to provide for these poor constables some shade during the summer at least?

Rao Sahib M. Narayana Menon (*Commissioner of Police*): The Government will see whether it is possible to do it.

LEPROSY—RELIEF.

87. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the attention of the Government is drawn to the very large percentage of leprosy existing in Pudukkottai desom, Chemmanthatta village;